

Global Positioning Systems and Mobile Mapping Subcommittee Charter
Geographic Information Systems Committee
National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Purpose

The purpose of the National Park Service Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Mobile Mapping Subcommittee (GPSMMS) is to improve planning, coordination, and technical support for park planning, management, and scientific research. The NPS GPSMMS will provide guidance on the use, capabilities and implementation of GPS and mobile mapping-related software/hardware applications for GIS and other programs. The GPSMMS will assist with evaluation and selection of appropriate technologies and document standard products/configurations, protocols, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent fragmentation of resources and allow effective exploitation of the technologies.

Background

GPS and mobile mapping technology allow resource, park management and GIS support staff to navigate, survey, map, and monitor natural, cultural, facility, and landscape features, as well as assist with search and rescue, fire, law enforcement, etc. operations in a cost-effective and safety-conscience manner. Park and program managers will benefit from activities of the GPS and Mobile Mapping Subcommittee that support the planning, acquisition, and application of these technologies.

The need for GPS and mobile mapping expertise and resources in the NPS is increasing. As technology in mobile applications and hardware become more advanced and less expensive, field personnel are developing requirements that include real-time data collection and use of these data in the field. In addition, large volumes of data are becoming a requirement of field operations. These require hardware and applications to access and manipulate the data in the field.

Technology and systems for field and mobile operations are undergoing rapid evolution, and the NPS requires the expertise and knowledge to evaluate these advancements.

Roles and Functions

1. **COMMUNICATION:** Facilitate and serve as a focal point for communications about GPS and mobile mapping issues, programs, policies, and projects both internally and with other agencies and external partners. Keep NPS personnel informed of GPS and mobile mapping technologies, training opportunities, applications and sensors. Develop and maintain a webpage for dissemination of information.
2. **PLANNING:** Serve as the focal point for integrating park, regional, and national GPS and mobile mapping goals, objectives, infrastructure, and support.
3. **ADVISORY ROLE:** Advise the NPS GIS Committee (GISC) on the long-term strategies, requirements, and priorities for GPS and mobile mapping and related projects. Represent GISC and advise NPS managers in appropriate forums related to systems, capabilities, coordinates and datums, data, training, and policy as directed. Research and recommend strategies and procedures for GPS and mobile mapping data and applications that utilize geographic data as a framework for the broad integration of databases, geo-databases and systems from a field data collection perspective.

4. **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** Identify internal GPS and mobile mapping training requirements, and plan or make recommendations for the development and presentation of training in cooperation with other groups or agencies. Provide materials and information to NPS personnel concerning GPS and mobile mapping technologies.
5. **STANDARDS and PROTOCOLS:** Provide guidance and develop documentation of protocols and SOPs for GPS and mobile mapping. This will include but not be limited to data dictionaries, electronic field forms, metadata templates, spatial data management, collection, etc.
6. **MOBILE TOOLS DEVELOPMENT:** Provide coordination and consultation in development of mobile applications for distribution throughout the NPS.
7. **SPECIAL ISSUES:** Upon request of the GISC, explore and analyze issues and make recommendations to address such. Collaborate with other agencies and bureaus on issues that pertain to GPS and mobile mapping.

Membership

The NPS GPSMMS is co-chaired by the GPS and Mobile Mapping Coordinator in the GIS Division, National Information Systems Center, Office of the Chief Information Officer and another GPS and mobile mapping coordinator or specialist working on high-level projects or partnerships. Membership in the NPS GPSMMS will be limited to no more than 20 individuals which represent a cross section of GPS and mobile mapping coordinators and specialists/users across the NPS. Active members and their supervisors must agree to the membership criteria outlined below. Members will serve for two fiscal years after appointment with one-half of the appointments terminating each year. To initiate the membership rotation, one-half of the charter members will be designated as one-year appointments. Members may serve multiple terms by re-nomination and appointment by the GISC. The NPS GPSMMS Co-chairs will open nominations for membership each year for the month of August and forward the nominations to the GISC membership. The GISC will discuss and appoint new members at the GISC meeting each September. Non-NPS employees (cooperators, partners, etc.) may serve on the committee as ex-officio/non-voting members. Travel funds for meetings may or may not be provided depending on availability.

In addition to the regular GPSMMS membership, task groups may be formed and request the assistance of subject-matter experts on an *ad hoc* basis.

Membership Criteria:

- A strong interest in advancing GPS and mobile mapping integration to assist park managers and personnel in making better-informed decisions
- Visionary, demonstrated ability to ‘think outside the box’, beyond the boundaries and collaboratively
- A good team player
- Positive, constructive thinker
- Capable of representing the interests of your constituency
- Supervisory approval for the rotational members
- Able to commit up to 10 percent of the year on GPS and mobile mapping meetings and assignments. In some years and certain situations, the time commitment may exceed 10 percent.

Meetings

Meetings will be held by teleconference monthly. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to complete the tasks and projects assigned to the committee by the GISC and NPS GIS Program Manager.

September 14, 2006

Additional meetings may be conducted in person or by conference call. Meetings will be arranged and facilitated by the Chairs with input and support by a majority of members. The GPSMMS will provide an update of current GPS and mobile mapping activities at the monthly GISC meetings as directed.

The GPS and Mobile Mapping Subcommittee will make decisions by consensus among the permanent and rotational committee members. If consensus cannot be achieved, decisions may be accomplished by majority vote. A simple majority of committee members must participate in the decision making process to constitute a quorum. Subject matter experts or other individuals invited on an *ad hoc* basis will provide information or recommendations but are not involved in the decision-making or voting process.

Work groups may be established by the GISC to address specific issues that can be resolved within short, finite time frames. The composition of work groups will represent different geographic and organizational perspectives and may include personnel from a variety of agencies and organization. Work group reports and recommendations will be submitted to the GISC for approval and/or further action. The GISC will identify a GPSMMS liaison to any GPS and mobile mapping work groups it establishes.

Approval

This charter is effective as of the date signed and approved by the GISC. This charter is valid for five years from the date signed unless revised or discontinued. This charter can be revised upon the recommendation of a majority of the GISC members.

Recommended by GISC: 10/18/06

Approved


Chair, GIS Committee

Date: 11/2/06

Appendix A – NPS GPS and Mobile Mapping Subcommittee Charter Membership

Name	Title	Initial Serve Date	Cooperators / Partners
Tim Smith	Co-Chair, National GPS Program Coordinator, GISD, NISC	March 2006	
Joel Cusick	Co-Chair, GIS Specialist, GPS Coordinator, AKRO	March 2006	
Peter Budde	NR-GIS Program Manager, WASO-NR Program Center, GISC Member	March 2006	
Kathy Commisso	GIS Technician, Delaware Water Gap NRA	March 2006	
Kathie Hansen	Midwest Region Fire GIS Specialist	March 2006	
Patrick Lineback	GIS Coordinator, Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP's	March 2006	
Doug Wilder	Inventory and Monitoring Program Data Manager, Central Alaska Network	March 2006	
Karl Brown	Vegetation Mapping Program Manager, DOI PPS/GPS Coordinator	March 2006	
Tammy Stidham	Regional Technical Support Center, National Capital Region	March 2006	
Karen Anderson	GIS Specialist, Acadia National Park	March 2006	
John Knoerl	Program Manager, CRGIS Facility, WASO, GISC member	March 2006	
Judith Daniels	Project Manager, Soils Resource Data, WASO, NRPC	March 2006	
John Paynter	GIS Specialist, Denali NP&P	March 2006	
Ann Rodman	Supervisory GIS Specialist, Yellowstone NP	March 2006	
David Anderson	Park Landscape Architect, GIS & ROW Coordinator, Blue Ridge Park Way	March 2006	
Andy Steel	GIS Specialist, New River Gorge National River	March 2006	
Chris Ulrey	Resource Management Specialist, Blue Ridge Park Way	March 2006	
Mark Roper	GIS Specialist & GPS Coordinator Pagosa Ranger District, San Juan NF		USFS
Carl Beyerhelm	GIS, GPS, and Data Management Coconino National Forest		USFS
Richard Karsky	Dick Karsky Montana Technical Data Center		USFS